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What Are Its Goals?

John Birch Society Gets Going Here

The John Birch Society, two years a-building, has burst upon California and the nation in recent weeks as a radical right-wing organization dedicated to fighting Communism. The views it proclaims, the methods it avows have so disturbed Gov. Edmund G. Brown and the Legislature that investigations and public hearings have been ordered. This is the first of several articles seeking to explain objectively what the society is.—The Editor.

By FRANCIS B. HAMILTON
News-Call Bulletin Staff Writer

The John Birch Society, whose operations have stirred great controversy in Southern California, exists also in the Bay Area.

It has a co-ordinator—a paid staff man—working full-time in California.

And a member of its 28-man National Council, Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III (USAF, ret.) is a former San Francisco business executive who has recently moved to Los Angeles.

Southern California has been its stronghold on the West Coast, and it is particularly active in Santa Barbara, and in Fullerton and Garden Grove in Orange County.

The somewhat similar socio-economic climate of Marin County and the Peninsula is viewed by those who have analyzed the society as ideal for its propagation.

FOR TWO YEARS after its formation in Indianapolis, Dec. 8-9, 1948, the society worked in semi-secrecy.

But it is secret no longer; it has been explored at length and denounced editorially in California and elsewhere in the nation by stanchly conservative newspapers, such as the Los Angeles Times.

Actually, its leaders, once located, appear eager to get their views before the public.

Figures are not handed out, but the society says it expects to have 100,000 members (at \$24 a year for men, \$12 for women) by the end of this year.

The society is the brain-child of one Robert W. Welch, 61-year-old native of North Carolina, who retired from a candy-making firm (Jas. O. Welch Co. of Boston, Los Angeles, and elsewhere) four years ago to devote his energy and money to his cause.

THE ESSENCE of his cause is this:

- That the world-wide



Robert Welch

Marquis Childs writes on "The Radicals of the Right" Page 20.

Communist conspiracy has so infiltrated the United States that it is running the Pentagon, subtly influencing our defense program, international policies, and our taxes.

• The outcome, Welch says, will be increasingly greater deficits, wild inflation, and eventually government "socialistic controls over every operation of our economy and every activity of our daily lives."

• This will be followed by a softening up of the American will through "horror of 'modern warfare'" and eventual surrender on Communist terms.

These views, and what the society intends to do about them and the way it proposes to do it, are contained in a 180-page "Blue Book of The John Birch Society," which is a transcript of remarks by Welch on the occasion of the society's founding.

WHAT IS TO be done is dictated by Welch. The books says that a republican form of government at this time "lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption" and that "democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

So, says Welch: "The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels." He means his control.

"The men who join The John Birch Society during the next few months or few years are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway. And we are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource to the fullest possible advantage that we can. Whenever and wherever, either through infiltration by the enemy or honest differences of opinion, that loyalty ceases to be sufficient to keep some fragment in line, we are not going to be in the position of having the society's work weakened by raging debates. We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every-question theme.

"THOSE MEMBERS who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of

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